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RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Office of Technical & Customer Assistance

Quarterly Project Report

Project Title: *Auto Salvage Environmental Results Program: Improved Compliance & Performance Through Innovation*

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Reporting Period: January 1 - March 31, 2006

Project Description: OTCA's vision is to reduce environmental health risks by improving regulatory efficiency and auto salvage yard industry compliance through a comprehensive, multi-media program patterned after the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's ERP model and consisting of three parts:

- 1) Facility certification
- 2) Statistically-based performance measurement
- 3) On-site compliance monitoring, pollution prevention and technical assistance

DEM regulatory stakeholders, industry representatives, and project partners will be recruited to assist OTCA in reaching a goal of 75% industry-wide voluntary certification with a 25-50% average measurable improvement in selected environmental business practice indicators (EBPIs) during the first years of implementation.

EBPIs will be selected to assess improvements (relative to baseline conditions) in industry performance in air, water, and RCRA compliance as well as pollution prevention; the potential for release prevention, emissions reduction and human health/environmental protection will be key considerations. Outcomes will be measured using the statistical approach developed for the RI Auto body ERP including: statistically determined number and randomly selected locations for baseline and post-implementation compliance audits (given pre-specified levels of statistical confidence, power and compliance rate proportions), generally accepted methods for data analysis and EBPI comparisons, and summary reports that outline findings with appropriate descriptive statistics.

The Auto Salvage Yard Industry in Rhode Island:

In Rhode Island, there are currently eighty-five (85) Auto Wrecking & Salvage Yards licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation, located in twenty-six (26) communities. The license is active for a three year time period, and must be renewed to maintain it. Auto Salvage Yards are required by law to be licensed by RIDBR in order to operate.

Project Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

- Participated in two (2) project meetings with Narragansett Bay Commission Pollution Prevention Program staff, E. Park from URI Center of Pollution Prevention & Environmental Health, principal project partners, and RIDEM staff
 - Items discussed included baseline audits, the Rhode Island mercury law and mercury switch removal, a training workshop held in January 2006 for auto salvage yard operators (R. Enander, T. Armstrong, J. Antonio (DEM), E. Park)
- Participated in a meeting with DEM RIPDES staff to discuss the Stormwater section in the Certification Workbook, as well as assistance to auto salvage yard operators in the future to comply with planning and other regulatory requirements
- Co-sponsored a half-day Environmental Compliance and Pollution Prevention workshop with NBC, offered to Rhode Island auto salvage yard operators, held on January 11, 2006 at Twelve Acres, Smithfield (R. Enander, T. Armstrong, J. Antonio, B. Migliore (DEM), NBC P2 staff)

Results of Workshop:

- Fifty (50) auto salvage yards owners and employees in attendance
- Thirty-two (32) auto salvage yards represented
- Five (5) vendors present
- Worked on the draft Certification Workbook, with input from staff in DEM regulatory agencies
- Began to tabulate the results of the baseline audits (R. Enander)
- Participated in the State-EPA Symposium on Environmental Innovation and Results, held in Denver, CO from January 23-25, 2006 (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)
- Participated in Quick Silver Caucus Technical Assistance conference calls for States (B. Migliore, T. Armstrong, J. Antonio)
- Participated in a Regional Meeting on Assistance and Pollution Prevention Program Measurement on March 23, 2006 in Westford, MA, sponsored by NEWMOA and EPA New England
- Participated in State/EPA EMS Permit/ERP Conference Calls (T. Armstrong)
- Using the checklist, completed ten (10) baseline audits of auto salvage yard facilities in this period, for a total of thirty (30) audits, working with staff from the Narragansett Bay Commission, a principal project partner (G. Park, J. Antonio, NBC staff)
- Continued working on the draft design for the Auto Salvage Yards webpage that will be placed on the RIDEM website (T. Armstrong)

Expenditures during Period:

Financial Information removed by EPA as confidential business information.

Major Activities Planned for Next Quarter:

- Complete the development of the draft Certification Workbook
- Continue to tabulate the results of the baseline audits
- Continue to participate in State/EPA EMS Permit/ERP Conference Calls
- Hold internal steering committee meeting (governmental officials)
- Plan for general stakeholder meeting, including industry and municipal stakeholders, after internal stakeholder meeting
- Using information gained in carrying out baseline audits, begin follow-up and clean up the database to identify active and inactive auto salvage yard facilities
 - Through the baseline audit process and contact with auto salvage yard property owners, it has become apparent that some auto salvage yard operators/property owners maintain an Auto Wrecking & Salvage Yards license from the RI Department of Business Regulation, but are not currently operating an auto salvage yard
 - This will help to more accurately define the target audience for the program
- Complete working on the draft design for the auto salvage yards webpage to be placed on the RIDEM website